

**Wampler, Jennifer (DCR)**

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## Greenways and Trails Program E-News

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**Upcoming Grants**

The Urban and Community Forestry Program administered by the Department of Forestry (DOF), is accepting applications until [May 6](#). Applications for the Forest Legacy Program are due by [June 24](#). Click [here](#) to learn more about both these programs.

Applications for technical assistance from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program are due on [August 1](#). Click [here](#) for an application.

The [Virginia Coastal Community Adaptation](#) grant for addressing resilience and sustainability in coastal and marine ecosystems and the communities that depend on them is due April 15.

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Welcome to the DCR Greenways and Trails Program News Group. Scroll down for information on how to unsubscribe or update your preferences.



### Virginia's First Lady honors the VA Capital Trail

First Lady Maureen McDonnell was among the dignitaries that dedicated the eastern trailhead of the Virginia Capital Trail on March 26 at Jamestown. The trailhead includes a shelter and an electronic, interactive kiosk with information on public accommodations, historical sites, wildlife and natural resources along the trail funded through a grant from the [Dominion Foundation](#).



She received a brick for the Virginia Capital Trail from Senator Tom Norment while Paul Koonce, CEO of Dominion Virginia Power held back the rain.

An advocate for healthy living through nutrition and fitness, the First Lady is the honorary chair of the inaugural [Weight of the State Conference](#) on May 17 and 18 at the [Westin](#) hotel in Richmond.

Virginia's Weight of the State conference will help forge new state and regional partnerships and collaborations to combat childhood obesity and set the next steps for combating this public health epidemic in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### Changes at DCR

[Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov) is the federal funding site for 1000 grant programs offered by 26 agencies.

### Funding for Pedestrian Workshops

#### Funding available for pedestrian workshops with a focus on older adults

Reprinted from [PBIC](#) news release

Funding is now available to organizations interested in teaching pedestrian safety workshops focused on older adults in their communities.

The Highway Safety Research Center (HSRC) is seeking proposals to fund up to 12 organizations to teach "Pedestrian Safety Workshop: A Focus on Older Adults." This national course, developed with funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), engages communities in addressing pedestrian safety issues that older adults face and provides strategies for improving walking conditions.

Each selected site will be provided \$2,500 as well as technical assistance from pedestrian safety experts. To download the RFP, please visit [www.walkinginfo.org/psw](http://www.walkinginfo.org/psw).

Only government agencies and other not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Project funds are not payable to individuals.

Completed proposals are due Friday May 7, 2010 by 5 PM ET. Applicants should use the Web-based submission process available at [www.walkinginfo.org/psw/rfp](http://www.walkinginfo.org/psw/rfp). HSRC anticipates selecting the awarded communities in mid-July 2009.

### Save America's Treasures Grants

FY2010 applications are now available for Save America's Treasures grants. These grants



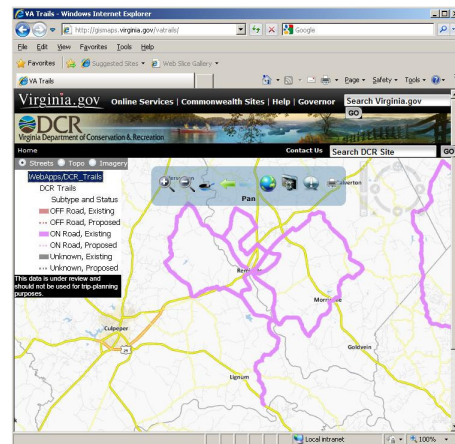
### Outdoor Recreation Leadership Retires

After 36 years of public service to DCR, the director of planning and recreation resources, John Davy, is retiring on May 1. During his term as director, John oversaw the acquisition and development of many state parks and each five-year update of the *Virginia Outdoors Plan*.

Bob Munson, planning bureau manager, retired on Jan 1 after serving the public for 32 years. Bob has been a strong advocate for greenways in the Commonwealth and has been an invaluable resource for the trails community.

We wish John and Bob well in retirement, and best wishes on their new endeavors. They will be sorely missed here at DCR.

### Building a Digital Trail Network



Virginia's Geographic Information Network (VGIN) is hosting the Virginia Trails and Routes Inventory while efforts to improve the trail data are underway. Zoom in to your area of interest to see a glimpse of the work done so far that is available [online](#).

VGIN is also hosting a file transfer portal for planners to exchange GIS trail data as they plan regional trail connections. If you maintain the trail data for your jurisdiction or agency, please contact [Jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:Jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov) to be added to the contact list and receive the password for the FTP site.

Thank you VGIN for all you do to foster the creative utilization of geographic information and oversee the development of a catalog of GIS data available in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### Legislation Affecting Walking and Bicycling

#### Federal

There is a new [US DOT Policy Statement](#) concerning walking and

are available through the National Park Service for preservation and/or conservation work on [nationally significant](#) intellectual and cultural artifacts and historic structures and sites. Intellectual and cultural artifacts include artifacts, collections, documents, sculpture, and works of art. Historic structures and sites include historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects. Click [here](#) for an online application.

### Negotiating Trails Across and Under Railways

A formal process for negotiating rail crossings for trail users has been published by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation. Refer to Section 1.4 of this [online document](#) to see how to submit a potential crossing to the state for consideration.

The process begins with a recreational advocacy group submittal of a Letter of Interest for a trail proposal to DCR. DCR will then coordinate with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF), the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) and the host railroad to assess the feasibility of the trail proposal for new Commonwealth supported railroad projects as well as for existing rail lines.



### FEATURED REPORT

If you haven't seen a copy yet, check out [Conservation Buffers: Design Guidelines for Buffers, Corridors and Greenways](#), published by the USDA and the Forest Service Southern Research Station. Over 80 illustrated design guidelines for

bicycling. The Secretary posted a [blog](#) about it as a follow-up to his appearance at the National Bike Summit.

On March 18, 2010, The President signed the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act. The HIRE Act extends surface transportation programs and Highway Trust Fund expenditure authority through December 31, 2010. It also includes restoration of the \$8.7 billion SAFETEA-LU rescission, extension of the availability of Build America Bonds, and incentives for businesses that hire new workers. The full text of the bill is available [online](#).

H.B. 4690, [The Livable Communities Act of 2010](#), was introduced by Rep. Ed Perlmutter on Feb. 25. It is currently in committee. Among other things, this bill would establish the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, the Interagency Council on Sustainable Communities, a comprehensive planning grant program, and a sustainability challenge grant program.

[Executive Order 13514](#) requires an annual Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan and a percentage reduction target for reducing agency-wide scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions from sources not owned or directly controlled by a Federal agency but related to agency activities such as vendor supply chains, delivery services, and employee travel and commuting.

### State

Most of the legislation affecting bicycling and walking in Virginia died in subcommittee or was continued to 2011. [H.B. 197](#) ensuring the connectivity of road and pedestrian networks passed both houses, as did [H.B. 222](#), which states design standards for state secondary highways should accommodate safe pedestrian and bicyclist movement. [S.B. 546](#) ensures that railroad rights-of-way may be used for recreational purposes and for access to lands being used for recreational purposes without the easement holder owing a duty of care to the user.

### Update on the East Coast Greenway Travelers Guide

The East Coast Greenway (ECG) continues to roll along, in Virginia and the rest of the east coast. The route is now 24% on multi-use trails between Key West and Calais, Maine, and much more trail is on line to be constructed over the coming two years.

The East Coast Greenway Alliance (ECGA) reports that its Regional Coordinator for Virginia and the Carolinas, Steve Bevington, has left for a position with the NC Division of Health. The projects and issues that Steve has been working on, including the Virginia ECG Guidebook (a partnership with VA DCR and VDOT), will be continued by other ECGA staff and volunteers. People can learn more about the ECG and make donations to support trail development activities online at the [East Coast Greenway](#).

### Call for Presentations and Exhibitors at the National Trails Symposium

**Trails: The Green Way for America**  
Nov. 14-17, 2010

From [American Trails](#)

This symposium's theme evokes the benefit of trails to America's economy and environment. As we evolve toward a green economy,

conservation buffers are synthesized and developed from a review of over 1,400 research publications. These guidelines are presented as easy-to-understand rules of thumb for planning conservation buffers in rural and urban landscapes.

### 2010 Conferences

May 17-18  
[Weight of the State Conference](#)  
Richmond, VA

[June 5- National Trails Day](#)  
Plan Your Event!

[July 15-17- Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference](#)  
Norcross, GA

[September 13-17- Pro Walk/Pro Bike](#)  
Chattanooga, TN

[November 14-17-National Trails Symposium](#)  
Chattanooga, TN

*DCR Trails Program Mission:  
Provide assistance and education  
to encourage the development,  
maintenance and promotion of  
attractive, sustainable and  
connected trails throughout the  
state.*

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Recreation  
Planning and Recreation  
Resource Division

trails are the way for outdoor recreation and alternative transportation. Trails provide access and connections to many of this nation's most incredible green spaces: parks, forests, and wildlands. Trails are a critical component of green infrastructure within communities, tying homes to businesses, schools, and workplaces, and empowering clean human-powered mobility. Trails support the new American dream which is built upon environmental and economic efficiency. Trails are, very simply, the green way for America.

The American Trails National Symposium will bring over 600 trails professionals and advocates to Chattanooga from all over the U.S. One

of the most dynamic features of the conference is the exhibit hall, where Symposium attendees, volunteers and sponsors will meet for special functions and networking. Attendees come from local, state, and federal agencies, as well as non-profit organizations and trails advocacy groups.

[Call for presentations](#) (due April 9)

[Exhibitor and Sponsorship contracts](#) (discount before April 1)

### Submit your articles and photos

If you have articles or photos about trails or trail solutions/best practices in Virginia that would be of interest to a statewide audience, please submit them for consideration in the quarterly Greenways and Trails E-News. Also of interest are organizational strategies that work and other tips for trail advocates. Send text and photos to [jennifer.wampler@dcv.virginia.gov](mailto:jennifer.wampler@dcv.virginia.gov).

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